

# GI NEWSDESK

The latest news from around the globe



## Off and Running

Harry Jurgens, of AFT Trenchers, is taking part in a vintage car rally from Peking to Paris.

The route from China to France will take the teams more than 30 days to complete, through more than nine countries, with plenty of stops along the way. 100 cars from around the world are competing.

"We are taking part in the 4th Peking-to-Paris event that retraces the steps of 11 pioneering automobile adventurers in 1907.

"It has also presented us with an opportunity to raise awareness and hopefully funds for Parkinson's disease," said Harry, who is competing with a friend.

## Class of '76

David Salisbury, Course Manager at Burghley Park Golf Club, has a huge library of old books and photographs and he has uncovered this photograph taken in 1976 of delegates at a training course at the STRI.

See if you can spot younger versions, and haircuts, of some familiar faces.



### SPORTS TURF RESEARCH INSTITUTE

#### COURSE OF INSTRUCTION FROM 22ND - 26TH MARCH, 1976

**Back Row:** S.R. Griffiths, Hefyn & District G.C.; B.C. Hatcliffe, Birmingham Parks Department; D. Tye, Longcliffe G.C.; P.W. Lehmann, Otley G.C.; A. Morton, West Byfleet G.C.; J.R.A. King, Telford Development Corp. (St. Mary G.C.); M. Wilcock, Stratford G.C.; N.J. Dwyer, Gris's Dyke G.C.; V.G. Suxham, Loretto School.

**Middle Row:** F. Fitzjohn, Porter's Park G.C.; M.G. Hawtree, Addington Court G.C.; B. Burton, Powfoot G.C.; T.M. D'Arcy, Castletroy G.C.; V.P. Holden, Warkworth G.C.; K. Almond, Mexham G.C.; P. Dods, Kingsknowe G.C.; N. Wilson, I.C.I. Fibres (Harrogate); S.P. Ellis, Bradford G.C.

**Front Row:** G.R. Butler, Brett Essex G.C.Ltd.; J.W. Manning, Faversham G.C.; P.J. Frank, Addington Palace G.C.; D. Salisbury, Burton-co-Trent G.C.; S.W. McClune, Coombe Wood G.C. Ltd.; P. Walshav, Silkstone G.C.; J.R. Johnson, The Ganton G.C. Ltd.; S. Hill, Rotherham Borough Council.

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Email your news to [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

# Moffat Man Retires

Robin McMillan retired recently after having served nearly 37 years as Head Greenkeeper at Moffat Golf Club, in Dumfriesshire.

Robin, like myself, was born and bred in Moffat and he developed an interest in golf when, as a youngster, he became a message boy for the local grocer, Mr Stewart, who was also a fine golfer and a great believer in getting youngsters involved in the sport. His method was quite novel. He expected his message boys to caddy for him in the evening, without payment, but he encouraged them to try it out for themselves. I followed Robin as Mr Stewart's message boy and it certainly worked for both of us.

It was with great pleasure that I was able to attend the celebration to mark Robin's retirement. The club and his friends had arranged a golf match and dinner in the clubhouse where a presentation was made to him for his many years of devotion to the club. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening where friends and work colleagues paid their respects and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Robin became a greenkeeper at the club where his uncle was the Head Greenkeeper (nepotism was alive and well). After four weeks his uncle decided to retire and left him as the sole Green Staff member. A daunting task at an 18 hole golf course. Robin embraced the challenge and he has

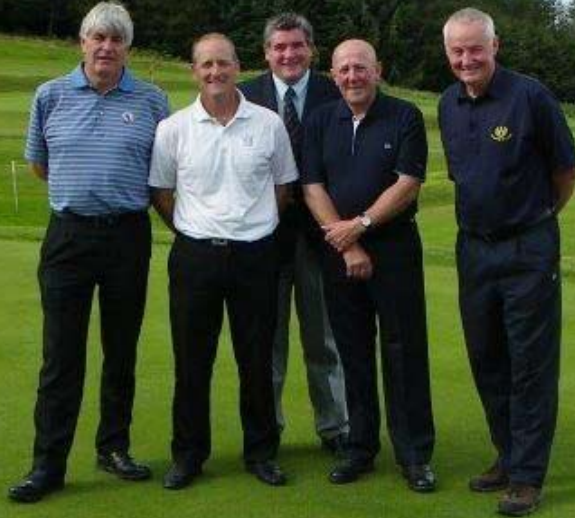
been a stalwart and a fine example of a hard working and conscientious greenkeeper who has been a credit to greenkeeping and, especially, Moffat Golf Club. Robin has always been a member of BIGGA and a great supporter of the Association.

Robin leaves Moffat in the capable hands of Mike Wilson who has been his deputy for a number of years. Mike is taking on the responsibilities of Head Greenkeeper and we wish him all the best.

Robin is looking forward to all the opportunities retirement will bring.

He is a staunch supporter of Queen of the South Football Club and will now have more time to attend the matches. Golf is also high on his agenda. We wish Robin well and hope he has a long and happy retirement.

*Peter J. Boyd  
Regional Administrator*



## PAUL AND JANE UNDERY

Paul and Jane Undery, long time PR consultants for Etesia, were presented with a memento at Saltex by Etesia's Managing Director Patrick Eves, to mark Paul and Jane's retirement.

The couple were invited to Etesia's traditional Saltex breakfast so they could meet up with their friends in the press and say goodbye.

## New book for the British Standards Institute

This informative, simple, cleanly laid out book brings together all of the relevant information needed to manage the risks presented by the use of machinery. By answering the most frequently asked machinery safety questions the book offers practical health and safety solutions.

With questions featuring in a purple font and plenty of white space this A5 book would be a valuable read for anyone involved in Risk Assessment and general H&S.

The author, John Glover, is a graduate of the Institute of Occupational Safety and has practised health and safety law and safety of machinery for a number of years.



It can be obtained from the BSI, Group Headquarters, 389 Chiswick High Road, London, W4 4AL [www.bsigroup.com](http://www.bsigroup.com)



## Golf Environment Award Winners

Portmore Golf Park and James Hutchinson, of Fairhaven Golf Club, are the two main winners in the 2010 Golf Environment Awards.

Portmore, in Devon, won the Overall Achievement Award and James, the Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year, and Owner/Manager of Portmore, Colin Webber, and James each win a Study Trip to the USA.

Regional Winners were: Scotland. Loch Lomond GC; Wales. Aberdovey GC; Northern England. Silloth on Solway GC and Southern England. Aldeburgh GC.

Individual Project Award winners were: Nature Conservation. Delamere Forest GC; Water Management. Maesteg GC; Waste Management. Machrihanish Dunes GC and Turfgrass Management. Royal St David's GC.



# Bio-inspired

***What if*** you had a product inspired by nature that provided targeted, selective turf disease control?

## OPEN DAYS

Ransomes Jacobsen threw open the gates to its European head office and invited the UK turf industry to an Open House event over two days in late September

Over 400 guests, including many current customers, prospects, dealers and distributors, representatives from the media and local dignitaries, attended the event which provided a varied programme of activities. Industry partners including BIGGA, STRI, IOG and GEO were present as were suppliers to the sector, Scotts, Syngenta, Bernhards and Broadwood International.

The event took place in a relaxed atmosphere, somewhat similar to a country fair, with equipment displays and demonstrations, historic Ransomes equipment including the first Budding lawnmower, a working Ransomes steam engine, thrasher and ploughs, factory tours, outdoor games and a nearest the pin competition on the company's three-hole golf course.

On the following weekend a Family and Friends Day with a similar format saw 620 people invade the premises to see the array of turf maintenance equipment produced in Ipswich. A model steam railway provided rides for the children and entertainment included fete and fun-fair-type games, a



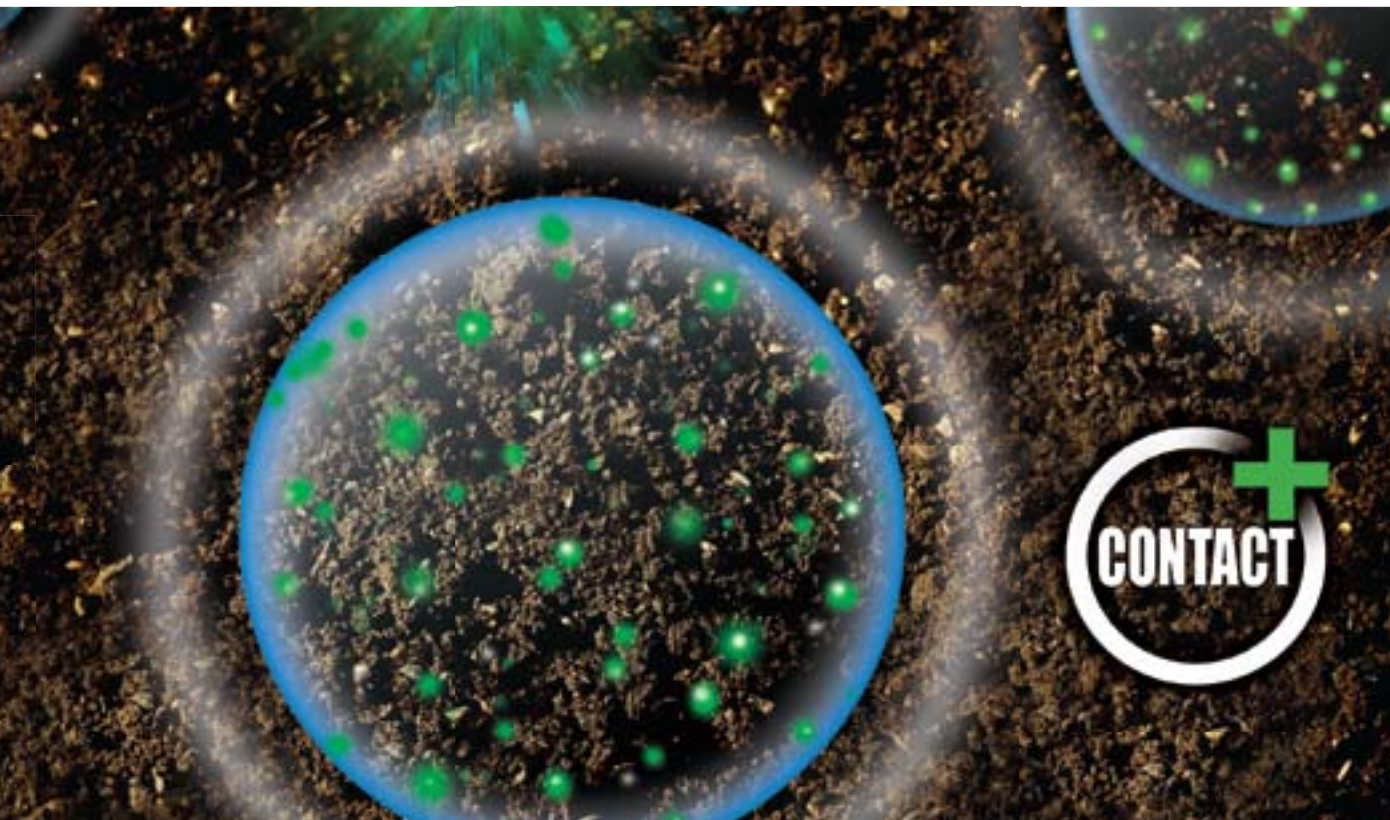
'beat the goalie competition', music from a local school band, a putting competition and a BBQ lunch. The local police and fire and rescue services were also in attendance with their latest vehicles.

Commenting on a very hectic three days, Managing Director, David Withers, said,

"It was quite a week and exceeded all expectations. We had around 430 visitors over the two industry days and 258 of those toured the manufacturing plant.

Some came from as far away as Holland and Austria. Many remarked that they had not appreciated that we produced mowing equipment on this scale, so it was pleasing to get the message across to so many.

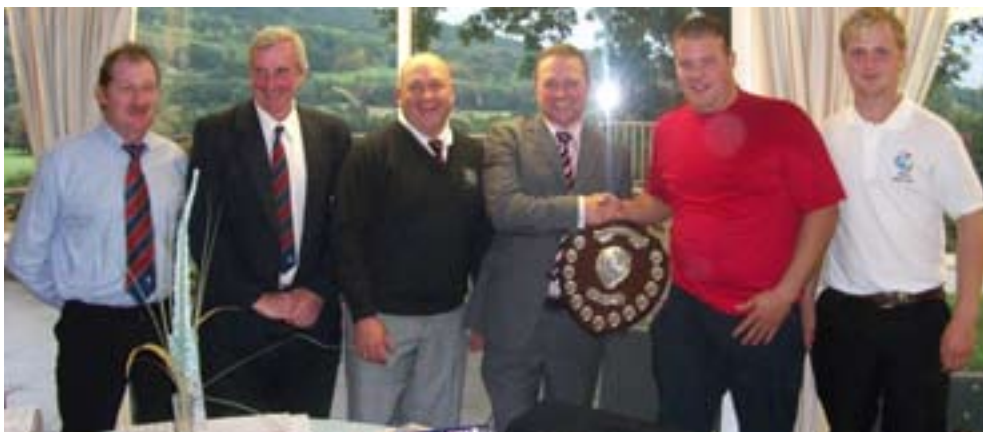
"The Family and Friends Day was equally successful and provided the opportunity for the staff to show their loved ones where they worked and showcase how they contribute to the success of the business here in Ipswich," said David.



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**NORTHERN REGION INTER SECTION GOLF TOURNAMENT**

The third Northern Region Inter-Section Golf Tournament, sponsored by Whitemoss ECO Supplies, was held on September 22, at Llangollen GC.

For the first time all six Sections in the Northern Region competed on a fine day on superb course prepared by Course Manager, Jez Hughes, and his staff. The format was a three man team from each Section playing Stableford with all three team members'

scores to count. The event was once again a very close run affair with the Sheffield Section just claiming victory with 108 points over the second placed North Wales team with 104 points.

The longest Drive was won by Paul Roberts from the North Wales Section and Nearest the Pin was won by Andy Peel also from the North Wales Section.

The Region thanks all teams for making the effort to play, some travelling great distances.

The Region's thanks are also extended to Llangollen Golf Club for providing the venue and some excellent food; everyone was made to feel very welcome. Particular thanks are extended to Andy Law, Managing Director of Whitemoss ECO Supplies Ltd, for his continued sponsorship.

Photograph shows the winning Sheffield Section Team and others from left to right: Stewart Pigott, Sheffield Section; Ian Holoran, Northern Region Chairman; Jez Hughes, Course Manager; Andy Law, Whitemoss ECO Supplies); Matt Holden and Tom Strong, both Sheffield Section.

**Back to the Future: The 5th European Golf Business Conference!**

"Back to the Future" is the theme of the European Golf Business Conference 2010.

The fifth edition will be held in London: the first time the event been held in the UK - from November 30 To December 2.

An international group of representatives from the golf industry will gather in this city, to exchange ideas of how the game can grow, to discuss current developments of the industry and to share knowledge and information on golf course management.

More information about the programme, speakers and location can be found at the conference website:

[www.conference.egcoa.eu](http://www.conference.egcoa.eu).

# Protective shield

***What if you had a long-lasting protective shield against Fusarium even for the toughest winter?***

## Nominations Open for the Edwin Budding Award

The International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association is now accepting nominations for the fourth annual Edwin Budding Award.

The Award recognises those who have made significant contributions to the golf course equipment industry, including those who have excelled in the business, history, education, design, engineering and maintenance of golf course equipment.

Nominations should be sent to [nominations@igcema.org](mailto:nominations@igcema.org) and the deadline for nominations is November 26.

The winner will be presented the award in Orlando, Florida, USA during the Golf Industry Show.

## RETIREMENT



After 38 years with SISIS, UK Sales Manager, Keith Vertigan, has retired.

Keith started with SISIS as Area Representative for the North West, later moving to Scotland as Manager of SISIS Scotland.

After a very successful few years there he returned to Macclesfield to become UK Sales Manager.

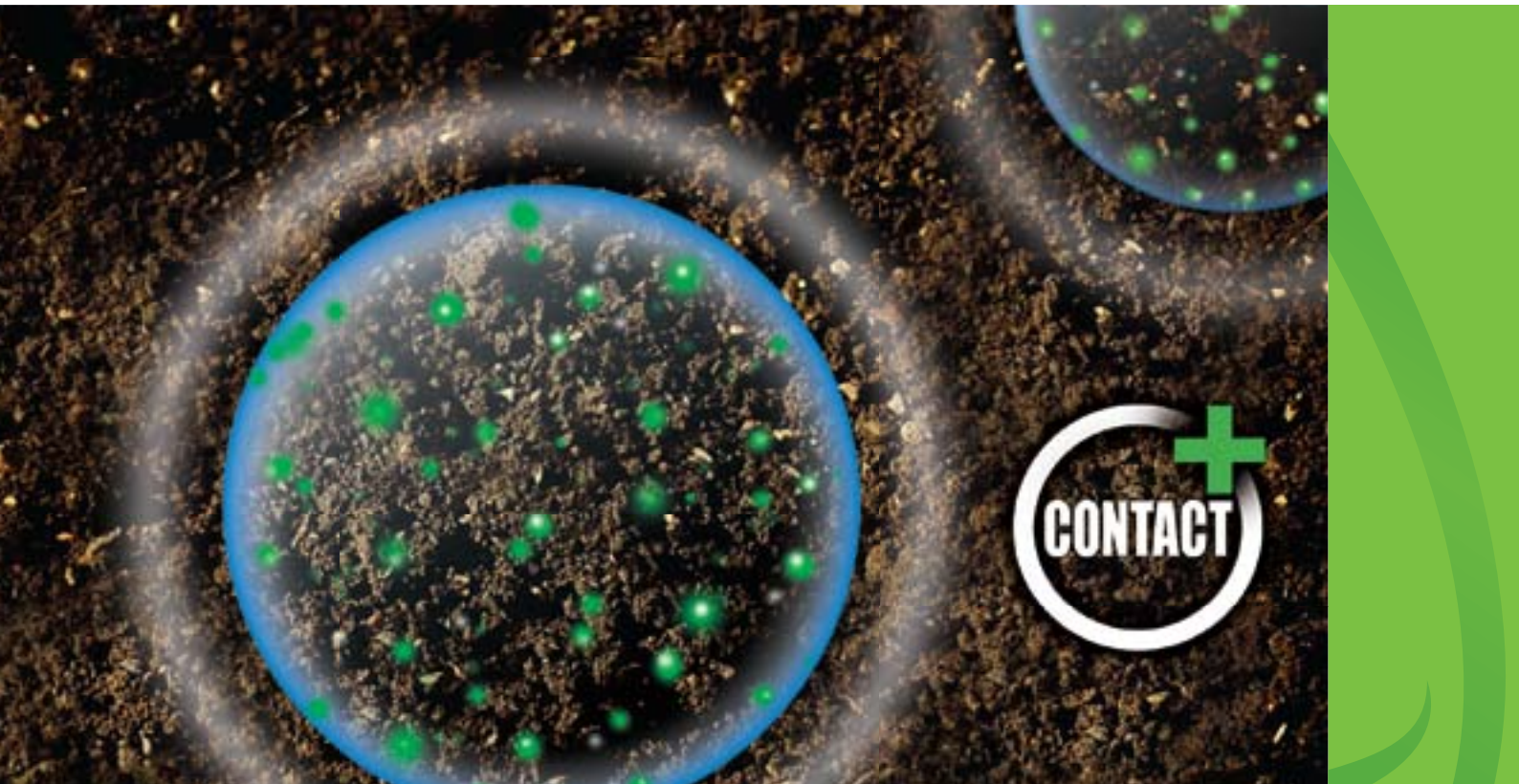
Keith was presented with vouchers so that he can add to his very extensive range of fishing equipment.

He is now hoping to spend more time relaxing at the side of a river – and hopefully catching some fish!!

SISIS new sales team is Andrew Roberts as UK Sales Manager, supported by Andrew Walker as Field Sales Manager and Douglas Boa as Sales Office Manager.

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Email your news items and press releases to **The Editor, Scott MacCallum**, at [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)



## First for Sutton Green



Sutton Green Golf Club, is one of the first clubs in the area to take delivery of the hybrid greens mower from Jacobsen, the Eclipse 322.

The diesel-electric hybrid mower was delivered recently by local Ransomes Jacobsen dealer, TH White Ltd of Reading.

Nathan Kim Sing is Head Greenkeeper at the club and has a team of four to help maintain the course.

"About 18 months ago we received a complaint from a neighbour in a nearby house close to one of our greens about noise from early morning mowing.

We took a reasonable approach and changed our greens mowing regime, but it is inconvenient for us as we have many early golfers, especially at weekends, and preparing the greens in that part of the course is an issue for us," he said.

## Pay Recommendations

The Committee for Golf Club Salaries (CGCS) feels that it would be inappropriate to recommend any form of increase for 2011 to the salary scales currently in place. In reaching its decision the Committee has taken into account the general economic climate and the impact that this has had on golf clubs throughout the UK.

The CGCS recommends rates of pay as guidelines for Clubs to follow, but is mindful that at all times they remain a matter for negotiation between the individual employer and employee. The CGCS further considers that employers should make an appropriate pay award to recognise any substantial change in responsibility, qualifications or duties carried out by their employees as well as reflecting any changes to legislation governing rates of pay. Performance issues are also an important and relevant criteria in salary negotiation.

The CGCS wishes to draw to the attention of golf clubs the impending changes in pension legislation that will come into force with effect from 2012. From this date both employers and employees may have a mandatory obligation to contribute into a Personal Pension Plan or the Government's National Employment Savings Trust (NEST). Employers should begin to look into how they will be affected and what will need to be put in place in order to comply with the legislation.

# Fast knockdown

***What if you had a fungicide active in leaves, thatch and soil providing contact+ activity?***

## Grass Roots Technology

Dean Wood Golf Club has become the first UK course where staff across all three vocational levels are completing their qualifications through the use of E-portfolio technology.

Course Manager, Chris Halkerd has not only embraced his own professional development by completing Myerscough College's NVQ level 4 Sportsturf pilot, a blended learning programme utilising ILM training mixed with innovative assessment methods and short bite sized training certificates, but has also been supporting his staff through their level 2 and 3 apprenticeship programmes using the same methodology.

"The e-portfolio sports-turf qualifications Myerscough provided for me and my staff proved time efficient, well constructed and industry specific," said Chris.

"The new way of completing work based qualifications has allowed me to develop my team of staff which in-turn has benefited the quality and standards at Dean Wood."

"The work-based team at Myerscough College have been operating the e-portfolio system over the last three years.

"Training and support is tailored to each employer and qualification and the Level 4 programme is a best practice example of this utilising ILM tuition and web-conferencing technology to support learning."

Paul McGrail, Work-based Quality Manager, said:

"The use of this assessment methodology is now fully embedded in supporting the college's national delivery model for sports turf with a plan to develop international delivery and embrace other land-based schemes."

David Golding, the GTC Education Director, added:

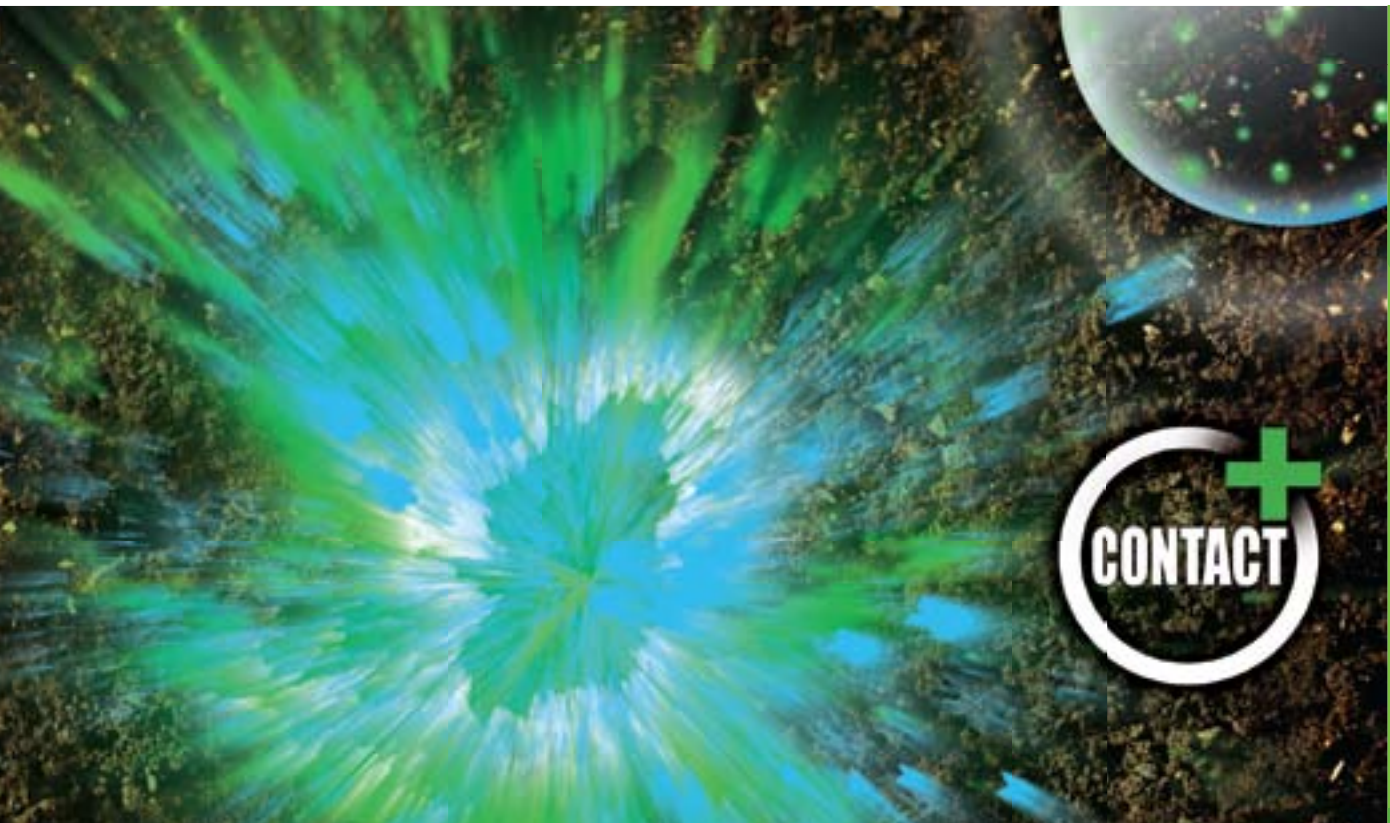
"This innovative delivery option for greenkeeping students is in line with the use of modern technology. The fact that all levels of staff at Dean Wood have enjoyed the e-portfolio experience will I am sure encourage more greenkeepers to gain formal qualifications."



## Reward for Ronnie

Liberton Course Manager Ronnie McCrindle received a plaque from Chairman, Stewart Crawford, on behalf of the East Section at the Autumn Outing to the club., to recognise 40 years at the club.

"Ronnie will be retiring in two years time we wish him all the best in his retirement when it comes round. I think he deserves it," said Stewart





## Open Day Joy at Druids Glen



Delegates at the recent Barenbrug and STRI Druids Glen Golf Resort open day have given glowing feedback on the event, which revealed the preliminary findings of a new trial taking place at the County Wicklow course.

Over 40 Superintendents from across Ireland attended the day to gain an insight into the Golf Green Differential Input Trial. Established in partnership with STRI, the trial is the first of its kind in Ireland and aims to determine

the influence of both standard and relaxed input maintenance regimes on grass species for golf greens.

Following a welcoming speech from Druid Glen's course Superintendent, John O'Sullivan, on why the 18-hole championship course decided to participate in the trial, Barenbrug's Research and Development Manager, Jayne Leyland, gave a presentation on the company's global breeding programme, before a series of

other informative presentations including Dr Ruth Mann who updated delegates on turfgrass protection and the methods and value of thatch reduction for overseeding and interseeding; Dr Ian McClements who spoke about the STRI Programme and Neil Pettican, Regional Sales Manager for Barenbrug, in Ireland, After lunch Graden's John Fitzpatrick, illustrated how easy it is to implement a species exchange programme with the Graden.



### IAN LAVELLE

SISIS has appointed Ian Lavelle as its Area Manager for Cumbria, Northumberland, Durham, Cleveland and Yorkshire.

Ian will be well known to many customers in the area as he has been a greenkeeper since leaving school 32 years ago.

Ian is married to Anne. He enjoys walking, snow boarding and water skiing. He also enjoys acting and writing plays and pantomimes.

## GOLD FOR OULTON HALL

The Estate's team at De Vere Oulton Hall is celebrating after picking up two top horticultural Gold awards in the space of just one week. These latest awards bring the hotel's overall haul to nine consecutive gold medals for its gardens over the last three years!

After picking up a Gold Rose Award at Yorkshire in Bloom the team were further delighted to be awarded with another Gold in the Best Hotel City Wide category at Leed's in Bloom's Business in Bloom Competition.

The judge's were particularly impressed with the overall standard of bedding displays



and permanent planting at De Vere Oulton Hall, which have been maintained to the highest standard despite it being a very difficult and dry year.

Jim Brown, Golf Course, Estate and Property Manager, said: "These awards are a true testament to the hard work and

dedication of all estates team but especially our fantastic gardeners at the hotel. I would like to thank them for their continued commitment and passion towards the upkeep, maintenance and presentation of our beautiful gardens which give pleasure to so many."

## Harrogate Week 2011

The Scottish Region is offering the following package for the Holiday Inn, Harrogate. The accommodation is from Monday 17 January. Three nights, Bed & Breakfast in en-suite rooms on 17th, 18th and 19th January, 2011. Cost will be £165.

To obtain a booking form for the accommodation contact the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd on; 0141 616 3440/07776242120 or email; pj.boyd@btinternet.com

Peter J. Boyd  
Regional  
Administrator